**Gauge conversion of Hassan-Managalore rail line**

1325. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the project for conversion of the rail line between Hassan-Mangalore into broad gauge is pending for a long time;

(b) if so, the details in this regard, with reasons for such inordinate delay for completion of the project;

(c) whether delay is leading to escalation of cost and inconvenience to the public;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what measures are initiated for early completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (e) Work of Hassan-Mangalore (183 Kilometres) has already been completed and commissioned except Sakleshpur-Subramanya Road (55 Kilometres) Ghat section which is opened for goods traffic only. However, this section could be commissioned for passenger services after clearance from the Commissioner of Railway Safety.

**Rehabilitating displaced persons by VSP**

1326. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the 3rd phase of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant is under construction;

(b) whether Government are considering the jobs for all displaced persons whose lands have been acquired;

(c) the details of the displaced persons, category-wise and their age criteria; and

(d) if not, whether Government are considering for compensation for all the displaced persons who are not given job opportunities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) Yes, Sir. The expansion plan of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL) approved by the Government to increase its liquid steel capacity from 3 million tonnes to 6.3 million tonnes per annum by October, 2009 is under implementation.

(b) and (c) Against the commitment by RINL to provide employment to 5000 displaced persons 6310 displaced persons have already been provided employment in VSP. These displaced persons have been taken in categories like Khalasis, Chargeman, technicians and in administration after following due process of selection. The age of these displaced persons employed ranges between 30 years and 50 years. As and when there is need for recruitment to posts in the non-executive cadre, this is done through the employment exchange and after following the approved procedure. Displaced persons fulfilling the eligibility are also allowed to participate in the selection process along with other candidates, as and when VSP announces vacancies, depending on their requirement.

(d) Does not arise in view of (b) & (c) above.

**Rehabilitation of displaced persons from RSP**

1327. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any memorandum regarding solving the problem of those displaced from Rourkela Steel Plant at Orissa or has there been any agitation at local level in this regard;

(b) if so, the steps taken to solve the problem, so far; and

(c) the way Government are involving the State Government with a view to solve the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) to (c) Government have received various representations from time to time regarding rehabilitation of local displaced persons from Rourkela Steel Plant at Orissa due to land acquisition. The land for the steel plant was acquired by the State Government in 1954—1962 and compensation was paid to the land oustees by the Govt. of Orissa from the amount deposited by RSP. RSP also provided preferential employment to persons under Local Displaced Persons category and in the process 6137 persons were employed in RSP against 4094 families displaced (2901 for Steel Plant and 1193 for Mandira Dam Project).

In the year 1993, due to agitation by some people claiming employment under LDP category, a joint exercise was undertaken with Government of Orissa to identify the displaced persons who had still not been covered